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"The Land", from the River to the Sea, is for Israel!



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #295 ~

There has never been anyone like the Jewish people! Beginning with God's unbreakable promise to Abraham around 2,000 BC (Gen. 12:1-3) and her supernatural birth as a nation in Egypt, she has miraculously survived through all the years, and she is still going today. The Israelites have had all these ups and downs, victories and defeats and, twice now, God drove them from her land and then brought them back. Despite all her sin and rebellion against God, we continue to see His unbelievable patience, awesome power, and incredible grace for them. Psalms 78, 105, 106

Why is this? Because Israel is God's country. He chose her out of all the other nations in the world to be His people (Deut. 7:7-9). God has great and glorious plans for Israel, ones He has been fulfilling these past 4,000+ years, ones carefully recorded in His word, and ones impacting

them and the entire world. And because God's plans for Israel are eternal in nature, then He will bless her forever. Gen. 13:14-16

In recent posts, we've looked at Israel's history as it relates to the land she first entered about 3,400 years ago. God's relationship and work with the Israelites relates directly to her land. If you talk about the people of Israel, then you need to also talk about the land of Israel. *"The Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants, I have given **this land**.'"* Gen. 15:18

Last time we learned that Joshua led the Jewish people into their land around 1400 BC. *"Joshua took **the whole land**... and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel."* (Josh. 11:23). Her east-west boundaries were from the river to the sea, *"from the Jordan even to the Great Sea"* (Josh. 23:4). This land was for Israel and not for anyone else. Ps. 105:8-11

Hundreds of years later, in 722 BC, 606 BC, and 586 BC, God exiled the Israelites out of the land He had given them. **Why was God punishing His own people and forcing them out of their land?** Because of sin, disobedience, and idolatry. **Deut. 28:47-63** – *"Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart ... The Lord will bring a nation against you... You will be torn from **the land** where you are entering to possess it."* **Jer. 25:8-11** – *"Because you have not obeyed My words... This **whole land** will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years."* **Ezek. 5:12** – *"One third of you will die of plague or be consumed by famine... one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them."* **Ezek. 7:23** – *"**The land** is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence."* Jer. 12:7-11, 16:18; Ezek. 4:13, 9:9, 11:23; Dan. 9:7-14

What about this Jewish remnant that was taken away from the land of Israel? God had plans for His people in the land where they were exiled, and He was present with them during their entire 70-year

stay. **Jer. 29:5-7** – *"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons… Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile."* **Ezek. 6:8** – *"I will leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword… when you are scattered among the countries."* **Ezek. 11:16** – *"Thus says the Lord God, 'Though I had removed them far away among the nations… yet I was a sanctuary for them a little while in the countries where they had gone.'"*

What did God's prophets say about the Messiah, the Israelites, and their land during their exile? They had a great deal to say, especially about the far distant future, about the end-times and the coming kingdom age. These prophecies make it very clear that God is committed to the Jewish people and committed to communicating His plans to them and to Christians too. The advantage we have at this time in history is that we can look back and better understand God's plans for the Israelites, and how it now relates to us. **Ezek. 36:6** – *"Prophesy concerning **the land** of Israel…"* **Ezek. 36:24-28** – *"I will… gather you from all the lands and bring you into **your own land**… I will give you a clean heart and put a new spirit in you. You will live in **the land** that I gave to your forefathers, so you will be My people and I will be your God."* **Ezek. 37:21-28** – *"I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into **their own land**… They will live on **the land** that I gave to Jacob my servant in which your fathers lived… I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them."*

Ezekiel 38:7 – *"In the latter years you will come into **the land** that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations… it shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against **My land**, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog."* **Ezek. 39:25-28** – *"I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name… They will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the*

*nations and gathered them again to **their own land**."* **Dan. 9:25-26** – *"You are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and **rebuild Jerusalem** until the Messiah the Prince there will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks… After the 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy **the city** and the sanctuary."*

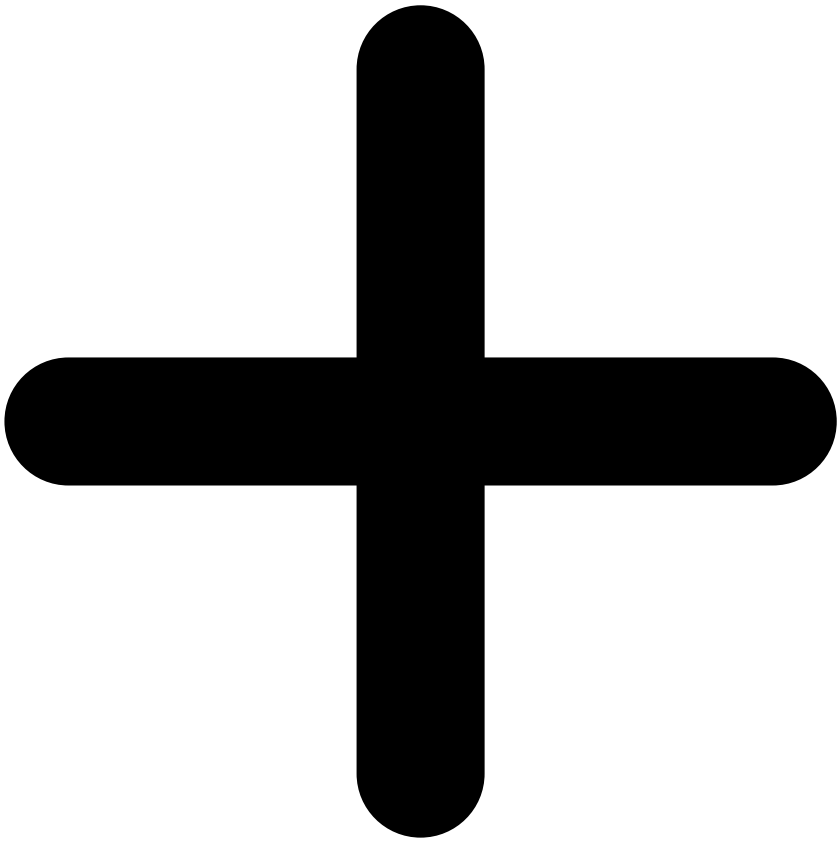
God promised the Jewish people that He would bring them back to their land. He told His people that they would be exiled out of their land (Jer. 25:8-11) and then return 70 years later (Jer. 29:11-13) – and this took place just as God promised. **Deut. 30:1-5** – *"When all of these things have come upon you… and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him… then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity… the Lord your God will bring you into **the land** which your fathers possessed…"* **Jer. 16:14-15** – *"I will restore them to **their own land** which I gave to their fathers."* **Jer. 29:10-11 –** *"When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to **this place**. For I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."* **Ezek. 11:17** – *"I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you **the land of Israel**.''*

Why do I spend so much time on Israel and her land? Because there's so much written in God's word about Israel and her land, which means she is extremely important to God. And because you need to know God's plans for Israel if you're to truly understand His plans for the church. Yes, there are people who question Israel's purpose and place in the world, but what did God tell us in His word? You need to carefully study what God says about Israel in the Old and New Testaments, and then you will know the real truth and relevance of God's plans for her and for you. Matt. 24:9-31, Rom. 15:8-13, Rev. 21:10-14

I am amazed and in awe when I see God's works and ways through the

years, whether it relates to me, the church, Israel, or the world. Be thankful that you can be part of God's plans and can serve Him in the last years of this church age. Might you say, "*Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders, and blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen"* (Ps. 72:18-19). And be looking forward to when you can say, *"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3

P.S. I am writing all these posts about Israel and her land because she is the most important country in the world, and because its relevant to our world today and in the future. I encourage you to read my previous posts on this subject: "God Promised 'the Land' to Israel", "'The Land': God's Promise and Plans, and Israel's Possession", "Israel's Long Stay in 'the Land' and God's Glory."





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